

EPA REGION III

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***** PM HOT LIST *****

Connellsville's transformation plan in the works

PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW Connellsville community members generated ideas Monday night during a brainstorming session focused on developing a plan that will begin the city's transformation. Michael Edwards, president of the nonprofit Fayette County Cultural Trust and executive director of the Connellsville Redevelopment Authority, told approximately 40 people gathered at the Downtown Connellsville meeting that the city could benefit by participating in the Neighborhood Partnership Program, a business tax credit program that generates funding for the city. "This program offers a great opportunity for Connellsville," Edwards said. "Businesses who owe taxes to the state are eligible to participate in this program." Edwards explained that the program works by businesses participating with nonprofit organizations like the Fayette County Cultural Trust.... The workshop will focus on what Connellsville has to offer, including the Great Allegheny Passage Trail, the bike loop, the Yough River Park, the historic downtown, the Heritage walking trail, Amtrak access, Artworks Connellsville, the new model train display, walkable street networks, peaceful neighborhoods, a top-quality local hospital and major employer, and the beauty of the Laurel Highlands.... Initiated by a team of 10 local and state organizations, Edwards said, the two-day event will feature an evening public meeting and a day-long skateholder action planning workshop, technical assistance and facilitation provided by the Sustainable Communities in Appalachia program, sponsored by the Appalachian Regional Commission and the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**.

Toledo stormwater project offers preview for Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW TOLEDO — In the tree-filled Ottawa neighborhood, heavy equipment chews up asphalt and earth in a park on South Cove Boulevard to install 9-foot-wide transmission tunnels and an underground storage tank for stormwater. The work started a year ago, lasting for up to 12 hours each weekday, and isn't expected to be completed until spring. The noisy, dusty work closed the popular park and sometimes disrupts traffic, but it has a benefit: No sewage overflows into the Maumee River. **The experiences in this northern Ohio city are a preview of what lies ahead for the Pittsburgh area, where heavy rain enters sanitary sewer lines and pushes 9 billion gallons of raw sewage into rivers each year.** Toledo is one of the first cities in the nation to modernize sanitary and storm sewers to comply with the 1972 federal Clean Water Act, which requires separating combined lines. The Allegheny County Sanitary Authority, or **Alcosan**, is accepting public comment on similar proposed upgrades and will submit its plan to the Environmental Protection Agency next year. Construction would not start for three years and could take more than 14 years to complete. Eighty-seven municipalities feeding into Alcosan's system must improve or replace lines and tanks. The project's cost will be at least \$2 billion, including \$500 million for the municipal upgrades. Alcosan customers pay an average

of \$262 a year for service, but that number is expected to double by 2026 because of the upgrades.

As the US Warms, Power Plants Face New Water Limits

CLIMATE CENTRAL The power sector is responsible for a large share — about 40 percent — of greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S., particularly thermoelectric-generating stations, such as coal-fired power plants. And so it is not without a hint of irony that a recent study concluded that the effects of global warming, particularly drought and heat waves, will increasingly limit the generating capacity of these power plants — thereby making them both contributors to and victims of global warming. The study, conducted by a team of U.S. and European researchers and published in *Nature Climate Change* in June, found that increasing water temperatures and reduced river flows during the summer months constitute the achilles heel of the power sector, making power plants vulnerable to significant disruptions in service at the very times when they are needed most. The study's findings were based on computer modeling of how climate change will affect summer river flows and water temperatures at 61 U.S. power plants and 35 plants in Europe. Previous studies had only examined changes in river flows, overlooking the cooling water issue.

Wastewater Injection Wells: The Trillion-Gallon Loophole

HUFFINGTON POST On a cold, overcast afternoon in January 2003, two tanker trucks backed up to an injection well site in a pasture outside Rosharon, Texas. There, under a steel shed, they began to unload thousands of gallons of wastewater for burial deep beneath the earth. The waste — the byproduct of oil and gas drilling — was described in regulatory documents as a benign mixture of salt and water. But as the liquid rushed from the trucks, it released a billowing vapor of far more volatile materials, including benzene and other flammable hydrocarbons. The truck engines, left to idle by their drivers, sucked the fumes from the air, revving into a high-pitched whine. Before anyone could react, one of the trucks backfired, releasing a spark that ignited the invisible cloud. Fifteen-foot-high flames enveloped the steel shed and tankers. Two workers died, and four were rushed to the hospital with burns over much of their bodies. A third worker died six weeks later. What happened that day at Rosharon was the result of a significant breakdown in the nation's efforts to regulate the handling of toxic waste, a ProPublica investigation shows.

A hotter world is a less productive world

WASHINGTON-POST Normally, when we discuss the possible consequences of climate change, we talk about natural disasters. But recent research suggests that there's a more subtle effect of a warmer planet that could be even more economically significant. Higher temperatures appear to cause worker productivity to plummet. ... In an earlier post, we looked at how the U.S. economy became vastly more productive after the introduction of AC in the 1930s. The downside is that all that air conditioning uses a lot of energy — China and India are now burning trainload after trainload of coal to satisfy their growing cooling demands. What's more, the newer, ozone-friendly hydrofluorocarbon gases used for AC units are themselves potent greenhouse gases. If that keeps up, it would mean a hotter planet overall. In the United States, forecasts show, 100°F days will become remarkably common over time if global carbon emissions keep rising at their current pace. Which means air-conditioning and other cooling methods will become increasingly important to protect the world economy from the productivity-sapping effects of heat.

Honeywell to pay most of Maryland port chromium plan

ASSOCIATED PRESS (Md.) BALTIMORE (AP) — The Maryland Port Administration says Honeywell International Inc. will pay for most of a \$27 million plan to keep chromium-tainted fill from polluting the harbor and nearby residential areas. Port and company officials plan to meet Tuesday with area residents to discuss the plan, which was approved recently by state environmental officials, ending years of negotiations. Honeywell has agreed to pay 77 percent of the costs of lining leaky storm drains at the Dundalk Marine Terminal and maintaining

pavement over the contaminated soil. Port officials told The Baltimore Sun the state shares liability because it agreed to use soil from a former chromium processing plant in Baltimore's Inner Harbor as fill at the terminal. Honeywell assumed liability for the contamination when it acquired the former Allied Chemical plant site.

Homestead Gardens Strikes Deal to Reduce Runoff Pollution

EDGEWATER-DAVIDSON PATCH The river and its waterways are "dying a death of a thousand small cuts," according to one environmentalist.... The SRF received \$25,000 from the Chesapeake Bay Trust to help complete the necessary work. It was designed and built by the SRF along with Homestead Gardens, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Underwood & Associates, according to a release. Mantay said the partnering with local groups is the only way to truly address local environmental problems. By using stormwater wetlands and bioretention cells, Mantay hopes the project allows natural processes to solve many concerns surrounding the targeted site.

***** MORNING HOT LIST *****

Editorial: War on Coal — Senate must pass critical measure

BLUEFIELD DAILY TELEGRAPH While some pundits were quick to declare the "Stop the War on Coal Act" as a political move by Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives aimed at hurting President Barack Obama in battleground states like Virginia, those of us living in the coalfields of southern West Virginia and Southwest Virginia know better. We realize that the five bills passed by the House last week, collectively referred to as H.R. 3409, and informally known as "The Stop the War on Coal Act," is vital to the survival of an industry under siege by Washington. Our history, our future and our remaining coal mining jobs are under attack by the federal Environmental Protection Agency. One needs to look no further than last week's devastating announcement of the loss of 1,200 coal mining jobs, and the closure of eight mines in Virginia, West Virginia and Pennsylvania by coal producer Alpha Natural Resources as evidence of the negative impact of this war. Coal-fired plants across the region that once provided gainful employment to area residents also are being closed as a result of new overreaching regulations, including Appalachian Power's Glen Lynn, Va., plant. The "Stop the War on Coal Act" should not be viewed as dead on arrival in the U.S. Senate — as some political pundits are saying. Instead, the passage of this measure in the Senate should be viewed as absolutely imperative to our nation's energy future. This bipartisan legislation — supported by both Democrats and Republicans — passed the House by a vote of 235 to 175. That's because some lawmakers in Washington still realize that coal is the fuel that powers more than 42 percent of our nation's electrical generation. Some lawmakers realize that green energy, including the wind turbines and solar panels so fiercely advocated by President Barack Obama — cannot replace coal overnight. Some lawmakers in Washington still believe in coal, and advances in clean-coal technology. And some lawmakers understand — and are respecting — two federal court rulings that found the EPA overstepped its boundaries by running roughshod over coal-producing states like Virginia and West Virginia. The U.S. Senate — when it takes up the "Stop the War on Coal Act" — must take these federal court rulings into consideration. And the Senate must pass this all-important measure. Yes, it is true that both the House and the Senate have now left Washington so that lawmakers can hit the campaign trail. That means the earliest the Senate would take up this vital legislation is November. But this delay — if nothing else — will afford area residents more time to contact their senators, and demand the passage of "The Stop the War on Coal Act" in the U.S. Senate. And we expect all lawmakers serving coal-producing states in the Senate to support this critical measure. That includes U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va.; U.S. Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va.; U.S. Sen. Jim Webb, D-Va.; and U.S. Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va. Every job lost in the coal industry is another blow to our nation's still anemic economic recovery. And the loss of 1,200 jobs is absolutely crippling.

Univ. Of Md. Gets EPA Grant To Help Cut Stormwater Runoff

WJZ-TV 13 BALTIMORE (CBS) BLADENSBURG, Md. (WJZ) — The University of Maryland received a huge grant to help communities keep the Chesapeake Bay clean. **Monique Griego** has more on how groups are developing new ways to manage stormwater pollution. Environmental leaders say stormwater runoff is one of the biggest threats as far as pollution to the Chesapeake Bay. Now scientists are developing new ways to stop it. As the communities around the Chesapeake Bay continue to grow, so do the pollution problems from stormwater runoff. "In urban areas, this is the biggest kind of pollution we have, so this is really a critical component to saving the bay," said Rob Schnabel. As a restoration scientist, Rob Schnabel is helping communities find ways to reduce pollution. Rain gardens that naturally filter the water are one way they're doing it. "The whole idea is that the plants that the water runs through absorb all the hydrocarbons, all the oil and grease," said Schnabel. To help other areas develop similar projects, the Environmental Protection Agency awarded the University of Maryland nearly \$700,000 to help Maryland's Wilde Lake watershed and D.C.'s Watts Branch watershed to improve storm water management. "So at the end of this project, we'll really know what works and we'll have long-term sustainable success," said Prof. Paul Leisnham. Schnabel says these new projects not only work and look better, they're cost-effective. "Once you do this project, it doesn't require much maintenance," said Schnabel. In Annapolis, after just a few months, neighbors say they're already seeing results. "I think there's much less runoff than there used to be," said a neighbor. Because Maryland as a whole is trying to improve the quality of the bay, Schnabel says more stormwater projects will be popping up. The University of Maryland's project with the new grant money will run from 2012 to 2015.

Rising sea threatens all Delawareans

DELAWARE CAPE GAZETTE If sea level rises as predicted over the next few decades, Delaware's shoreline will be completely changed. Even slight sea-level rise could be devastating in a state that relies heavily on its coast for tourism, wildlife habitat and residential development. To heighten awareness, 11 Delaware environmental groups have joined forces in one voice to stress the state's vulnerability to sea-level rise. The organizations support the findings of Delaware's Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control Sea-Level Advisory Committee's vulnerability assessment, which evaluates areas where the state is at risk. The report emphasizes that every Delaware resident will be affected in some way in the future, said Wendy Scott, policy advisor for the Delaware Center of Horticulture. "Three feet of sea-level rise would flood over 12,000 homes," said Chad Tolman of the League of Women Voters and a member of the advisory committee. Many of those homes would be in coastal Sussex County, where up to 32 percent of manufactured homes are at risk of inundation, according to the assessment, which was released Aug. 12. Delaware has already experienced sea-level rise in some coastal areas. The state's rate of sea-level rise is above the national average rate and is expected to speed up in the future, the report notes. Using various models and calculations, DNREC officials have calculated sea-level rise in Delaware by 2100 using a minimum estimate of 1.64 feet and a maximum estimate of nearly 5 feet. Over the past 50 years, sea-level rise at a Lewes recording station has been 6 inches. DNREC officials stress that even at that rate, sea-level would rise at least 1 foot by the end of the 21st century. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change offers more dramatic predictions with a minimum sea-level rise of 7 inches worldwide to a maximum of 23 inches, or just less than 2 feet.

Court takes aim & blasts pigeon shoots

PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS ANIMAL-RIGHTS activists and hunters have long disagreed about whether live pigeon shoots are barbaric torture or recreational fun. Last week, a federal judge in Philadelphia declared them messy, ordering a local organizer of pigeon shoots to apply to state environmental authorities for a "national pollutant discharge elimination system" permit. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network claimed the ruling as a victory. Riverkeeper Maya van Rossum, who keeps an environmental eye on 330 miles of the Delaware River and its 13,539 square miles of watershed, sued the Philadelphia Gun Club in March, arguing that the club violates the Clean Water Act by grossly polluting the river with large quantities of birdshot, casings and dead and dying pigeons.

during its shoots. Club attorney Sean M. Corr disputed the pollution claims, saying that the Bensalem-based, riverside club made efforts to address van Rossum's concerns even before the lawsuit was filed. "The gun club not only voluntarily uses nontoxic shot [required only for waterfowl], but also has erected a big Kevlar-based screen that catches the vast majority of it," Corr said. "There's no question that we're going beyond what's required." Van Rossum couldn't quantify the club's pollution, calling the amount "irrelevant" but indisputably sizable, given that the club has been sponsoring such shoots for more than 100 years. She called their birdshot-catching screen "ineffectual." She further charged that the shoots prevent boaters, wildlife-watchers and other recreational users from enjoying the river safely. "I have sat in a kayak in the water outside the gun club when a shoot has been going on, and gunshots rained down all around me," she said. "It's a very significant pollution hazard, a very significant safety hazard and a very big violation of law. They are polluting the river." The U.S. District Court judge also ordered the club to pay the network \$15,000, which Corr said the club offered as "a nuisance settlement" to avert further legal costs. Under the judgment, the club did not admit any violation of the Clean Water Act. Corr warned that the decision could have big repercussions for hunters everywhere. The club hosts just 12 days of pigeon shoots on weekends from late fall to early spring. In contrast, hunters statewide have months to shoot other birds (seasons depend on what kind of bird). "By the plaintiff's logic, every duck blind in the United States requires one of these permits, which illustrates their real purpose - to stop hunting," Corr said. For years, the club's hunts have inspired the ire of animal-rights protesters. Van Rossum, though, insisted that environmental concern spurred her to sue. Corr remains unsure what the club will have to do to comply with the required permit, which typically applies to businesses or buildings that discharge pollution into waterways through pipes and man-made ditches. Deborah Fries, a state Department of Environmental Protection spokeswoman, said that her office would review the club's permit application, which is due by year's end. "We were not a party to the lawsuit and have not seen the settlement agreement, so we really cannot comment at this time," Fries said.

DEQ introduces area watershed improvement plan

CHARLOTTESVILLE DAILY PROGRESS (Sunday) The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality introduced its Watershed Improvement Plan for four area watersheds during a panel discussion last week. Experts from the Rivanna River Basin Commission, the city of Charlottesville, Albemarle County, the Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District and the University of Virginia helped to introduce the plan. "We know we have a problem," said Tara Sieber, a regional coordinator with the DEQ. "We know that there is ... work that we can do ... so that the aquatic population is healthier and can support a better and more dynamic community. The goal is to bring back the healthy bugs." The Watershed Improvement Plan comes as a result of studies that found high sediment loads to be the major stressor for Lodge Creek, Meadow Creek, Moores Creek and Schenks Branch. High loads of sediment — dirt and mud in the water — negatively affect the aquatic community, which is one way scientists determine the overall health of streams. The DEQ's plan recommends reducing sediment by 13 percent to 19.3 percent in these streams. The plan recommends reducing sediment loads to area watersheds in four ways: limiting the amount of pavement and other impervious surfaces; encouraging stormwater to infiltrate back into the ground; restoring stream banks and planting trees; and removing existing sediment from impervious surfaces, such as roadways. "When we're in a highly impervious environment, like an urbanized area ... the rain falls and it goes immediately into the creeks and rivers," Sieber said. This increases the amount of water a creek or stream can handle naturally, which leads to erosion, and then sedimentation problems. Additionally, Sieber suggested developers and property owners incorporate vegetated roofs, rain gardens and bio-retention filters into their properties, as well as harvest rainwater by using rain barrels or cisterns. Currently, local entities are employing stormwater management practices and conducting restoration projects that will ultimately help water quality. "We've been reducing stream bank and bed erosion that's the result of development for decades and decades before stormwater management was something a lot of people thought about," said Dan Frisbee, the city's stormwater program coordinator. "This project aims to address some of those issues by grading back ... steep, vertical stream banks into gentle, gradual banks that are then protected with rock ... creating areas where the water can actually get up and safely access its floodplain," Frisbee added. "Since 2003, we've had a number of different projects to try to educate ... certain sectors like the automobile maintenance and repair industry," said Martin Johnson, the soil and water district's urban conservationist. "One of our education incentives was to get posters out to them and to make

site visits and to talk to them about the types of practices they could be doing to prevent water pollution.”

CNG and gasoline: A look at the differences

TOWANDA DAILY REVIEW With the boom of the natural gas industry sweeping the Marcellus Shale region across Pennsylvania in the past few years, the opportunities for local businesses and people have been many. However, although slowly, the industry is unlocking a common opportunity across the nation that may eventually change the way America moves. This opportunity is in the form of vehicles powered by compressed natural gas (CNG). Using this fueling alternative (while generally much cheaper than gasoline, typically about half as much at the pump), it's not as easy as driving up to the gas station and pumping CNG into your car; there are some key differences. The biggest differences, of course, lie within the vehicle itself. "The most significant difference is the fuel tank," Dimock resident Mike Faillace said. "It is more expensive and substantial than a regular gasoline tank due to the need to keep the gas under pressure, specifically 3,600 pounds or pressure. With CNG, I lose the trunk, as the tank is kept there and it takes up most of the space." Faillace, who self-converted his 1955 Chevrolet to run as a dual-fuel vehicle, meaning it can run on both gasoline and CNG, first became involved with vehicles when he was 15 years old and has more than 40 years of automotive experience and has restored numerous classic cars. "With that said, I wish I could use CNG all the time," he continued. "Unfortunately I can't since there's hardly any CNG stations around, but it burns much cleaner. When I change the oil it looks almost as clean after 10,000 miles as it did when I first changed it. There's hardly any residue on the spark plugs and it sounds quieter and milder on CNG than gasoline." However, there is another advantage that gasoline holds over CNG, besides being currently more available. "There is roughly a 20 percent reduction in horsepower," Faillace said. "That sounds like a lot but you're really not going to notice that because your foot isn't usually pushing the pedal to the floor. "However, that's the price for a dual-fuel car like mine," he continued. "If it was built for just CNG, the performance differences wouldn't be there. Naturally, engines that are built for gasoline don't run the same while on CNG."

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

From Early Bird What alternative fuel for NJ drivers? In New Jersey last year, 236 electric vehicles were sold, a seemingly huge increase over the previous year, when consumers bought only six plug-in cars. The numbers aren't thrilling automotive retailers. They face increasingly tough mandates to sell so-called zero-emission vehicles, a requirement they say will be difficult to meet unless the state puts in place the infrastructure necessary to spur consumers to switch to alternative fuel. But what type of infrastructure should that be? To power plug-in electric vehicles? Vehicles running on compressed natural gas? Cars and light trucks running on propane? What about vehicles powered by fuel cells? Those questions will have to be answered by the Christie administration and lawmakers, both of which have largely ducked the issue. By 2018, New Jersey's car dealers will have to increase plug-in electric vehicle sales to 19,000; by 2025, sales will have to grow to approximately 77,000 vehicles annually, according to a lobbyist for automotive retailers. The infrastructure is key. Consumers will not buy cars they cannot readily refuel, according to clean energy advocates. Promoting acceptance of cleaner running cars is contingent on resolving a wide range of issues, including range anxiety, higher costs, and limited refueling options, according to Laura Dooley, state director of the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers. That issue is going to dominate the agenda of the Senate Environment and Energy Committee over the next three months, according to its chairman, Sen. Bob Smith (D., Middlesex). "We want to do this right," Smith said at a hearing last week on virtually all of the bills aimed at promoting alternative vehicle development in New Jersey. One of the primary issues to resolve is how and which alternative fuel to promote through incentives adopted by the state. And what type of tax credits or incentives to pass to make it happen. Most environmentalists favor plug-in electric vehicles, which they say will usher out the era of vehicles driven by fossil fuels.

PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS

From Early Bird Court takes aim & blasts pigeon shoots ANIMAL-RIGHTS activists and hunters have long disagreed about whether live pigeon shoots are barbaric torture or recreational fun. Last week, a federal judge in Philadelphia declared them messy, ordering a local organizer of pigeon shoots to apply to state environmental authorities for a "national pollutant discharge elimination system" permit. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network claimed the ruling as a victory. Riverkeeper Maya van Rossum, who keeps an environmental eye on 330 miles of the Delaware River and its 13,539 square miles of watershed, sued the Philadelphia Gun Club in March, arguing that the club violates the Clean Water Act by grossly polluting the river with large quantities of birdshot, casings and dead and dying pigeons during its shoots. Club attorney Sean M. Corr disputed the pollution claims, saying that the Bensalem-based, riverside club made efforts to address van Rossum's concerns even before the lawsuit was filed. "The gun club not only voluntarily uses nontoxic shot [required only for waterfowl], but also has erected a big Kevlar-based screen that catches the vast majority of it," Corr said. "There's no question that we're going beyond what's required." Van Rossum couldn't quantify the club's pollution, calling the amount "irrelevant" but indisputably sizable, given that the club has been sponsoring such shoots for more than 100 years. She called their birdshot-catching screen "ineffectual." She further charged that the shoots prevent boaters, wildlife-watchers and other recreational users from enjoying the river safely. "I have sat in a kayak in the water outside the gun club when a shoot has been going on, and gunshots rained down all around me," she said. "It's a very significant pollution hazard, a very significant safety hazard and a very big violation of law. They are polluting the river." The U.S. District Court judge also ordered the club to pay the network \$15,000, which Corr said the club offered as "a nuisance settlement" to avert further legal costs. Under the judgment, the club did not admit any violation of the Clean Water Act. Corr warned that the decision could have big repercussions for hunters everywhere. The club hosts just 12 days of pigeon shoots on weekends from late fall to early spring. In contrast, hunters statewide have months to shoot other birds (seasons depend on what kind of bird). "By the plaintiff's logic, every duck blind in the United States requires one of these permits, which illustrates their real purpose - to stop hunting," Corr said. For years, the club's hunts have inspired the ire of animal-rights protesters. Van Rossum, though, insisted that environmental concern spurred her to sue. Corr remains unsure what the club will have to do to comply with the required permit, which typically applies to businesses or buildings that discharge pollution into waterways through pipes and man-made ditches. Deborah Fries, a state Department of Environmental Protection spokeswoman, said that her office would review the club's permit application, which is due by year's end. "We were not a party to the lawsuit and have not seen the settlement agreement, so we really cannot comment at this time," Fries said.

PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

From Early Bird Ohio River brownfield site reuse advanced An open house will be held Wednesday at the Community College of Beaver County at which representatives of four municipalities will present draft recommendations of a plan to clean up and reuse brownfields along the Ohio River. Those communities -- Monaca, Midland, Aliquippa and Coraopolis -- in collaboration with the Ohio River Trail Council, have spent 18 months in a community planning process. Among the speakers will be David R. Lloyd, director of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization. The open house is from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in Room 9103 of the Learning Resource Center at the college, 1 Campus Drive, Monaca.

TOWANDA DAILY REVIEW

From Early Bird Natural gas royalties in Bradford County reach \$160 million So far, Marcellus Shale gas production has generated \$160 million in royalties for land owners in Bradford County, a Penn State Extension educator said at a recent public meeting in Wysox Township. And the number of royalty recipients will continue to grow, since there have been 1,856 gas wells drilled in the county, but only 512 of those wells are producing gas commercially, said agronomy educator Mark Madden of Penn State Extension. In addition to the wells that have been built, many additional permits have been issued for wells that have yet to be constructed or are in the process of being developed, he said. Land owners, including farmers, need to make sure they are not the victims of unscrupulous people who want to separate them from their money, and they may also need to plan financially for how to pass royalty revenue to their descendants, he said. The meeting, which was hosted by state Sen. Gene Yaw

and took place at the Wysox Fire Hall, focused on agriculture issues. The meeting was an opportunity for the approximately 50 people in attendance to hear about recent developments that relate to agriculture and to ask questions and raise concerns related to agriculture. Among those who participated in the meeting was state Rep. Tina Pickett.

From Early Bird CNG and gasoline: A look at the differences With the boom of the natural gas industry sweeping the Marcellus Shale region across Pennsylvania in the past few years, the opportunities for local businesses and people have been many. However, although slowly, the industry is unlocking a common opportunity across the nation that may eventually change the way America moves. This opportunity is in the form of vehicles powered by compressed natural gas (CNG). Using this fueling alternative (while generally much cheaper than gasoline, typically about half as much at the pump), it's not as easy as driving up to the gas station and pumping CNG into your car; there are some key differences. The biggest differences, of course, lie within the vehicle itself. "The most significant difference is the fuel tank," Dimock resident Mike Faillace said. "It is more expensive and substantial than a regular gasoline tank due to the need to keep the gas under pressure, specifically 3,600 pounds or pressure. With CNG, I lose the trunk, as the tank is kept there and it takes up most of the space." Faillace, who self-converted his 1955 Chevrolet to run as a dual-fuel vehicle, meaning it can run on both gasoline and CNG, first became involved with vehicles when he was 15 years old and has more than 40 years of automotive experience and has restored numerous classic cars. "With that said, I wish I could use CNG all the time," he continued. "Unfortunately I can't since there's hardly any CNG stations around, but it burns much cleaner. When I change the oil it looks almost as clean after 10,000 miles as it did when I first changed it. There's hardly any residue on the spark plugs and it sounds quieter and milder on CNG than gasoline." However, there is another advantage that gasoline holds over CNG, besides being currently more available. "There is roughly a 20 percent reduction in horsepower," Faillace said. "That sounds like a lot but you're really not going to notice that because your foot isn't usually pushing the pedal to the floor." However, that's the price for a dual-fuel car like mine," he continued. "If it was built for just CNG, the performance differences wouldn't be there. Naturally, engines that are built for gasoline don't run the same while on CNG."

SEWICKLEY PATCH

From Early Bird Penn State Extension to Host Marcellus Shale Program Oct. 2 Penn State Extension will host "Understanding Shale Gas Exploration & Development" from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 2, at the Allegheny County Extension Office, 400 North Lexington St., third floor, in Point Breeze. The goal of the program is to provide attendees with a greater understanding of the impacts of shale gas exploration on leasing, water quality and the community, as well as needs that homeowners and community members should address if they hold property in shale gas areas. Scheduled speakers include Penn State Extension educators Jon Laughner and Dana Rizzo, as well as Agricultural Law Resource & Reference Center Director Ross Pifer. The discussion will include the current and future outlook for shale development, related water issues, and legal impacts on shale development. A question-and-answer period will follow the discussion. This program is for educational purposes only and is not intended to be legal advice. Those with legal questions or issues should consult an attorney.

ASSOCIATED PRESS (Pa.)

From Early Bird Amtrak to test trains at 165 mph in parts of Northeast Corridor Two test locations — from Perryville, Md., to Wilmington, Del., and from Trenton to New Brunswick, N.J. — currently have a speed limit of 135 mph. The two others — in Rhode Island from Westerly to Cranston and in Massachusetts from South Attleboro to Readville — currently have 150 mph limits.

PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Geocache event promotes cleanup at Crooked Creek

Treasures abound at Crooked Creek Park, enough to lure nature lovers and GPS-toting adventurers alike. Some of those treasures are part of the park's natural beauty. But some have been deliberately hidden along 200 acres of

trails and campgrounds by members of the Army Corps of Engineers to celebrate National Public Lands Day on Saturday. As part of the day's celebration, a "Cache In, Trash Out" event is planned to encourage people to help clean up the environment while discovering what the park has to offer. Plenty of wildlife can be seen while hiking along the wooded trails, along open stretches of sandy beach by the lake and beside still ponds. Visitors might even spy one of the bald eagles nesting along the lake. The idea for the day's event is for people to enjoy the outdoors while searching for hidden geocache containers and picking up litter along the way, said April Hawkey, park ranger with the Army Corps of Engineers.

Connellsville's transformation plan in the works | TribLIVE Connellsville community members generated ideas Monday night during a brainstorming session focused on developing a plan that will begin the city's transformation. Michael Edwards, president of the nonprofit Fayette County Cultural Trust and executive director of the Connellsville Redevelopment Authority, told approximately 40 people gathered at the Downtown Connellsville meeting that the city could benefit by participating in the Neighborhood Partnership Program, a business tax credit program that generates funding for the city. "This program offers a great opportunity for Connellsville," Edwards said. "Businesses who owe taxes to the state are eligible to participate in this program." Edwards explained that the program works by businesses participating with nonprofit organizations like the Fayette County Cultural Trust.... The workshop will focus on what Connellsville has to offer, including the Great Allegheny Passage Trail, the bike loop, the Yough River Park, the historic downtown, the Heritage walking trail, Amtrak access, Artworks Connellsville, the new model train display, walkable street networks, peaceful neighborhoods, a top-quality local hospital and major employer, and the beauty of the Laurel Highlands.... Initiated by a team of 10 local and state organizations, Edwards said, the two-day event will feature an evening public meeting and a day-long skateholder action planning workshop, technical assistance and facilitation provided by the Sustainable Communities in Appalachia program, sponsored by the Appalachian Regional Commission and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Ford City tables bids for roofing project FORD CITY — Borough officials received two bids from contractors offering to mount a new roof for the sedimentation tank at the water treatment plant. It was the second time officials solicited bids for the project. They failed to get a response from contractors the first time. Council has purchased a prefabricated steel cover from Olympia Steel Building Systems of McKees Rocks for about \$16,000 and it needs to be mounted. The cover over the outdoor open-water holding tank is part of a \$1 million project to make repairs at the borough-owned and maintained water plant that supplies water for residents. The tank cover is on a list of improvements mandated by the state's Department of Environmental Protection for the plant

Toledo stormwater project offers preview for Pittsburgh TOLEDO — In the tree-filled Ottawa neighborhood, heavy equipment chews up asphalt and earth in a park on South Cove Boulevard to install 9-foot-wide transmission tunnels and an underground storage tank for stormwater. The work started a year ago, lasting for up to 12 hours each weekday, and isn't expected to be completed until spring. The noisy, dusty work closed the popular park and sometimes disrupts traffic, but it has a benefit: No sewage overflows into the Maumee River. The experiences in this northern Ohio city are a preview of what lies ahead for the Pittsburgh area, where heavy rain enters sanitary sewer lines and pushes 9 billion gallons of raw sewage into rivers each year. Toledo is one of the first cities in the nation to modernize sanitary and storm sewers to comply with the 1972 federal Clean Water Act, which requires separating combined lines. The Allegheny County Sanitary Authority, or Alcosan, is accepting public comment on similar proposed upgrades and will submit its plan to the Environmental Protection Agency next year. Construction would not start for three years and could take more than 14 years to complete. Eighty-seven municipalities feeding into Alcosan's system must improve or replace lines and tanks. The project's cost will be at least \$2 billion, including \$500 million for the municipal upgrades. Alcosan customers pay an average of \$262 a year for service, but that number is expected to double by 2026 because of the upgrades.

THE MORNING CALL

Groundbreaking takes place for new Jacobsburg Environmental Center

Since 1959, Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center has been a unique and wondrous outdoors experience.

And for most of those years, the small ranch house that is the home to the center has proven to be just as unique, and much too small. ... While some people may be upset at the razing of the crab apple orchard where a Monarch butterfly banding was recently conducted, Allen had a different take. "We're recycling this beautiful property to house another important facility that will help educate the public, while doing so in an environmentally friendly and sustainable manner." Neitz added the new center will create greater accessibility for visitors to connect them to the educational programs as well as the entire park, which he called an environmental education laboratory. For more information on Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center or any of the state's other 119 state parks, go online to <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us> and select "Find a Park."

WASHINGTON, D.C.

WASHINGTON POST

From Early Bird Blog: Arlington, Falls Church receive funds to prevent stormwater runoff to Chesapeake Bay
Arlington County and the City of Falls Church are asking local residents and businesses to roll up their sleeves and make a difference in their communities by reducing stormwater pollution. Arlington County recently received \$80,000 in matching funds from the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund, which Arlington will use to continue the second year of its StormwaterWiseLandscapes Program. The program provides cost-sharing grants to residents, businesses and homeowner associations to install landscape projects aimed at reducing water runoff and pollution. Rep. Jim Moran (D-Alexandria) said, "These grants help build local community efforts to clean the bay, leveraging resources and providing new and innovative approaches to fully restore the bay's health." In Falls Church, the city has partnered with the EPA and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, a non-profit based in Richmond, that is focused on building consensus between groups to implement voluntary actions to improve water quality. Nissa Dean, the Virginia Director of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, said the Alliance received \$500,000 to work with community watershed organizations to convince residents and commercial properties to install green infrastructure practices that reduce storm water pollution and storm water volume. "If you treat stormwater on site," Dean said, "rather than letting it flow into a ditch in a nearby waterway or into a pipe infrastructure that then takes it to a wastewater treatment plant, then you're alleviating the burden on the city or state infrastructure, you're lowering those costs, and you're, at the same time, helping them reach their pollution-reduction goals." The Alliance plans on developing a manual and a training program, along with standards and practices for green infrastructure that can be installed on residential and non-residential properties to be used by other local watershed organizations throughout Virginia and the bay watershed. The manual and training program will enable volunteers to conduct stormwater audits in their local community and determine the best practices to use at individual properties. The Alliance will also offer financial incentives for people to install green infrastructure on their property.

From Early Bird Blog: Local coal could make the national difference
As the 2012 presidential race narrows to a few states, the issues that matter also become more specific. In the last few weeks before Election Day, the idea that all politics is local will reassert itself. Nothing is more true in that regard than the emergence of coal and coal country as the battleground where President Obama could meet his political end. Fredrick Kunkle does a great job in this morning's Post of explaining the current politics of coal in one such battleground state, Virginia. When it comes to being anti-coal, President Obama has the disadvantage of being totally guilty. Contempt for coal and coal country permeates his administration and the Democratic Party as a whole. They say they hate coal for environmental reasons, but they aren't sincere about developing clean-coal technologies because they are simply anti-growth. This gets back to Obama's core ideology, which makes him want all of us to ride a bicycle and live in a university town. Democrats aren't just against coal, they are against cheap energy. The battleground states of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Colorado and Virginia are among the top 12 coal-producing states. Voters in these states are about to hear a full-throated review of the Obama administration's attack on coal. The Obama campaign knows it

has a problem and it is trying to hide. Obama's EPA administrator, Lisa Jackson, has disappeared from view after being one of this administration's most celebrated public figures in Washington for the last three years. Why? Because recent polling in key states confirms the common sense that voters have about coal. They want more of it, and they think Obama's EPA is motivated more by leftist politics than by an economic plan that starts with cheap, plentiful energy.

From Early Bird The Most Important New Cars For 2013 2012 is a leap year, and it's fitting that, for many of the new 2013 models emerging this summer and fall, there's a lot more than facelifts and refreshed feature lists. Most notably, a lot of the trends that we've seen over the past several years in luxury models—engine downsizing, fuel-efficient technologies, and in-car connectivity—are making the leap into some of the market's top sellers. The Nissan Altima, Honda Accord, Ford Fusion, and Ford Escape—all some of the top-selling U.S. models—are each completely redesigned this year.

Could the U.S. and Europe start a trade war over airline carbon fees?

Are the U.S. and Europe poised for a trade war over airline fees? Suddenly, that's not such a ludicrous question. Late last Friday night, the Senate passed a bill to try and block an E.U. plan to cap carbon emissions on all flights in and out of Europe. The bill sets the stage for a showdown with Europe that could get unruly.

A hotter world is a less productive world Normally, when we discuss the possible consequences of climate change, we talk about natural disasters. But recent research suggests that there's a more subtle effect of a warmer planet that could be even more economically significant. Higher temperatures appear to cause worker productivity to plummet. ...But wealthy countries are far more immune to the heat penalty. One likely explanation is that air conditioning allows many workers in richer countries to shield themselves from the hotter weather. In an earlier post, we looked at how the U.S. economy became vastly more productive after the introduction of AC in the 1930s. The downside is that all that air conditioning uses a lot of energy — China and India are now burning trainload after trainload of coal to satisfy their growing cooling demands. What's more, the newer, ozone-friendly hydrofluorocarbon gases used for AC units are themselves potent greenhouse gases.

NBC 4 WASHINGTON, DC

From Early Bird UMd Gets EPA Grant to Help Cut Stormwater Runoff The University of Maryland is getting a federal grant to help communities reduce stormwater runoff, the fastest growing Chesapeake Bay pollution source. Sen. Ben Cardin says Environmental Protection Agency officials will announce the nearly \$700,000 grant Monday in Bladensburg. Stormwater running off roads, roofs, lawns and other areas carries fertilizer, animal waste, auto and power plant emissions and other pollutants into waterways. Once in the water, the pollutants promote algae blooms that harm water quality. Methods to reduce runoff include limiting paved surfaces that prevent rain from seeping into the ground, where pollutants are filtered by the soil and broken down. Cardin's office says the university will work with Howard County officials to cut runoff in the Wilde Lake watershed and the District of Columbia on the Watts Branch watershed.

WASHINGTON EXAMINER

From Early Bird Obama administration replaces EPA 'crucify' administrator EPA chief Lisa Jackson announced Friday that Ron Curry, the former head of New Mexico's Environment Department, has been appointed to lead the Environmental Protection Agency's headquarters in Dallas. Mr Curry is the first non-Texan to oversee the EPA's region 6 which covers Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana. Curry, who starts working on September 24th, replaces former Southern Methodist University professor Al Armendariz. "I am confident that Ron will contribute significantly to the EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment. His long record of leadership and success will make him a valuable asset to Region 6, to the EPA and to the American people. I look forward to having him on board," Jackson said in an email. According to the Dallas Morning News, Curry was on a short list of candidates favored by environmentalists when Armendariz got the post. Armendariz, who now leads the Sierra Club's anti-coal campaign, resigned in April after a video surfaced of him saying that companies not

complying with environmental law should be crucified. The video spurred outrage among Republicans seeing the comments as proof that EPA under President Obama has stepped up enforcement to a point where it harms the economy and the energy industry.

HERALD-MAIL

Williamsport man the 'inspiration' for Big Slackwater restoration WILLIAMSPORT — Tom Perry has packed nature, faith and music into his 77 years. Perry and his wife, Linda, are trained to remove an invasive plant along the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal known as garlic mustard, and he volunteers to take church groups and others on guided bicycle rides on the towpath. Perry is a retired Lutheran pastor. When an Orange, Va., church where a relative played a pipe organ decided it did not want the instrument, Perry decided he did. He has the mammoth machine set up in a family room in his house on Conococheague Street in Williamsport, and he plays it periodically. “I did a little bit of everything, dabbling around, here and there,” Perry said.

CHAMBERSBURG PUBLIC OPINION

With manure management plans newly required for even 1 animal, workshop set for Wilson College CHAMBERSBURG - If you keep any manure-producing animals - even one horse in your backyard - you are now required to have a manure management plan in Pennsylvania. It doesn't have to be a difficult task. The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay will conduct a Whine, Cheese and Mud: Horse Owners' Social from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Oct. 4 at Wilson College, 1015 Philadelphia Ave., to help alleviate some fears about the process. "We've organized these workshops to be laid back, social and informal," said Donna Morelli, Pennsylvania director for the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, who is also an equine enthusiast. "It's an overview of the revised law and how you can help protect water quality - but it's meant to be fun - and informative." Join the Alliance, partners and fellow equestrians for the second Whine, Cheese and Mud: Horse Owners' Socials, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Oct. 4 at Wilson College's Science Center. Experts from the Franklin County Conservation District and the National Resource Conservation Service will explain how to keep horses happy and healthy and protect water quality, too. The events are free to attend, but registration is requested. After lunch, visitors will tour Wilson College's Equestrian Center and the Fulton Farm, both of which operate using "Best Management Practices" to protect water quality

DELAWARE

DELAWARE CAPE GAZETTE

From Early Bird Rising sea threatens all Delawareans If sea level rises as predicted over the next few decades, Delaware's shoreline will be completely changed. Even slight sea-level rise could be devastating in a state that relies heavily on its coast for tourism, wildlife habitat and residential development. To heighten awareness, 11 Delaware environmental groups have joined forces in one voice to stress the state's vulnerability to sea-level rise. The organizations support the findings of Delaware's Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control Sea-Level Advisory Committee's vulnerability assessment, which evaluates areas where the state is at risk. The report emphasizes that every Delaware resident will be affected in some way in the future, said Wendy Scott, policy advisor for the Delaware Center of Horticulture. “Three feet of sea-level rise would flood over 12,000 homes,” said Chad Tolman of the League of Women Voters and a member of the advisory committee. Many of those homes would in coastal Sussex County, where up to 32 percent of manufactured homes are at risk of inundation, according to the assessment, which was released Aug. 12. Delaware has already experienced sea-level rise in some coastal areas. The state's rate of sea-level rise rate is above the national average rate and is expected to speed up in the future, the report notes. Using various models and calculations, DNREC officials have calculated sea-level rise in Delaware by 2100 using a minimum estimate of 1.64 feet and a maximum estimate of nearly 5 feet. Over the past

50 years, sea-level rise at a Lewes recording station has been 6 inches. DNREC officials stress that even at that rate, sea-level would rise at least 1 foot by the end of the 21st century. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change offers more dramatic predictions with a minimum sea-level rise of 7 inches worldwide to a maximum of 23 inches, or just less than 2 feet.

From Early Bird Bike stations on hold in Rehoboth The Rehoboth Beach Streets and Transportation Committee is not planning to install a bicycle parking station on Wilmington Ave. this year. Chairwoman and Commissioner Pat Coluzzi had broached the idea to her fellow city commissioners at the Aug. 17 meeting. Commissioner Bill Sargent said the feeling of the commissioners was that it was too late in the year to be testing. Coluzzi said by the time she could get discussion of it on the agenda for discussion, it would be too late in the year to be effective. She said the purpose of the parking station was to collect more data.

From Early Bird Cartoon: Climate Change

WEST VIRGINIA

CHARLESTON DAILY MAIL

From Early Bird Editorial: Wind farm subsidy should be zeroed out After 20 years, Congress likely will allow tax credits for wind turbines to expire on Dec. 31. Facing trillion-dollar annual deficits as far as the eye can see, the nation cannot afford the subsidies. Federal revenues lost to this industry amounted to \$14 billion over the last four years alone. But 20 years of tax credits have failed to make wind power practical. The industry lives on subsidies. As Ronald Bailey pointed out in reason.com, wind power generators collect a tax credit for every kilowatt-hour they produce whether utilities need the power or not. "Today, the provision provides a credit against taxes of \$22 per megawatt hour of energy generated," he said. In a recent column in the Wall Street Journal, Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., and Rep. Mike Pompeo, R-Kansas, pointed out the ridiculousness of this. Government largess "is so great that wind producers can actually pay the electrical grid to take their power when demand is low and still turn a profit by collecting the credit - and they are increasingly doing so." And the tax credit for wind diverts investment from more reliable and proven technology, such as coal and nuclear power. "Running coal and nuclear out of business is not good for the U.S. economy," they wrote.

Capito, Swint contrast on key issues ... Capito said issues like cross-state pollution regulations, and caps on other emissions should be under Congressional review. "We are supposed to legislate this," she said. "These are decisions that are to be made in Congress, not by an administrative cabinet position - that is where I have a problem." Swint agreed with that point. "It is Congress's jurisdiction to create that law," he said. "I consider it an overreach when the executive branch makes laws - I'm a Constitutional purist in that point." But he did say that laws like the Clean Water and Clean Air acts have had a tremendous benefit for the Kanawha Valley. He also supports EPA efforts to reduce mercury and toxic air emissions, and the agency's efforts to clean up the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Capito and Swint also agreed that market forces - driven in part by cheap, ample sources of natural gas - have caused the state's coal economy to suffer. Swint said there still will be long-term demand for coal used to make steel. "As long as we have a good metallurgical market for coal, we will have a future for the coal industry in West Virginia," he said.

BLUEFIELD DAILY TELEGRAPH

From Early Bird Editorial: War on Coal — Senate must pass critical measure While some pundits were quick to declare the "Stop the War on Coal Act" as a political move by Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives

aimed at hurting President Barack Obama in battleground states like Virginia, those of us living in the coalfields of southern West Virginia and Southwest Virginia know better. We realize that the five bills passed by the House last week, collectively referred to as H.R. 3409, and informally known as “The Stop the War on Coal Act,” is vital to the survival of an industry under siege by Washington. Our history, our future and our remaining coal mining jobs are under attack by the federal Environmental Protection Agency. One needs to look no further than last week’s devastating announcement of the loss of 1,200 coal mining jobs, and the closure of eight mines in Virginia, West Virginia and Pennsylvania by coal producer Alpha Natural Resources as evidence of the negative impact of this war. Coal-fired plants across the region that once provided gainful employment to area residents also are being closed as a result of new overreaching regulations, including Appalachian Power’s Glen Lynn, Va., plant. The “Stop the War on Coal Act” should not be viewed as dead on arrival in the U.S. Senate — as some political pundits are saying. Instead, the passage of this measure in the Senate should be viewed as absolutely imperative to our nation’s energy future. This bipartisan legislation — supported by both Democrats and Republicans — passed the House by a vote of 235 to 175. That’s because some lawmakers in Washington still realize that coal is the fuel that powers more than 42 percent of our nation’s electrical generation. Some lawmakers realize that green energy, including the wind turbines and solar panels so fiercely advocated by President Barack Obama — cannot replace coal overnight. Some lawmakers in Washington still believe in coal, and advances in clean-coal technology. And some lawmakers understand — and are respecting — two federal court rulings that found the EPA overstepped its boundaries by running roughshod over coal-producing states like Virginia and West Virginia. The U.S. Senate — when it takes up the “Stop the War on Coal Act” — must take these federal court rulings into consideration. And the Senate must pass this all-important measure. Yes, it is true that both the House and the Senate have now left Washington so that lawmakers can hit the campaign trail. That means the earliest the Senate would take up this vital legislation is November. But this delay — if nothing else — will afford area residents more time to contact their senators, and demand the passage of “The Stop the War on Coal Act” in the U.S. Senate. And we expect all lawmakers serving coal-producing states in the Senate to support this critical measure. That includes U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va.; U.S. Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va.; U.S. Sen. Jim Webb, D-Va.; and U.S. Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va. Every job lost in the coal industry is another blow to our nation’s still anemic economic recovery. And the loss of 1,200 jobs is absolutely crippling.

ASSOCIATED PRESS (W. Va.)

From Early Bird Memorial for W.Va. Mining Activist Set for Oct. 14 CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) -- The Keepers of the Mountains Foundation will hold a public memorial service for late mountaintop removal mining activist Larry Gibson. Friends and supporters are invited to the Oct. 14 event, set for 2-6 p.m. at the Charleston Municipal Auditorium. Gibson died of a heart attack Sept. 9 at his home on Kayford Mountain in Raleigh County. He was 66. He spoke with national and local media about the destructive form of strip mining for years, becoming one of the best known opponents. He started the foundation in 2004. Gibson protected his family's 50 acres from mining and was buried there in a private service Sept. 13. The Changing of the Leaves Music Festival will be held there at 1 p.m. on Oct. 13, the day before the memorial service.

From Early Bird W.Va. recycling event nets tons of electronics CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- A recent recycling event collected more than 35 tons of electronics for disposal. The Department of Environmental Protection said that's the highest total collected since its Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan began sponsoring free recycling events a year ago. Residents dropped off televisions, computers, printers and other electronics during the Sept. 15 event at the DEP's headquarters in Charleston. The DEP said additional recycling events will take place across the state later this year.

MARYLAND

WJZ-TV 13 CBS BALTIMORE

From Early Bird Univ. Of Md. Gets EPA Grant To Help Cut Stormwater Runoff BLADENSBURG, Md. (WJZ) — The University of Maryland received a huge grant to help communities keep the Chesapeake Bay clean. **Monique Griego** has more on how groups are developing new ways to manage stormwater pollution. Environmental leaders say stormwater runoff is one of the biggest threats as far as pollution to the Chesapeake Bay. Now scientists are developing new ways to stop it. As the communities around the Chesapeake Bay continue to grow, so do the pollution problems from stormwater runoff. “In urban areas, this is the biggest kind of pollution we have, so this is really a critical component to saving the bay,” said Rob Schnabel. As a restoration scientist, Rob Schnabel is helping communities find ways to reduce pollution. Rain gardens that naturally filter the water are one way they’re doing it. “The whole idea is that the plants that the water runs through absorb all the hydrocarbons, all the oil and grease,” said Schnabel. To help other areas develop similar projects, the Environmental Protection Agency awarded the University of Maryland nearly \$700,000 to help Maryland’s Wilde Lake watershed and D.C.’s Watts Branch watershed to improve storm water management. “So at the end of this project, we’ll really know what works and we’ll have long-term sustainable success,” said Prof. Paul Leisnham. Schnabel says these new projects not only work and look better, they’re cost-effective. “Once you do this project, it doesn’t require much maintenance,” said Schnabel. In Annapolis, after just a few months, neighbors say they’re already seeing results. “I think there’s much less runoff than there used to be,” said a neighbor. Because Maryland as a whole is trying to improve the quality of the bay, Schnabel says more stormwater projects will be popping up. The University of Maryland’s project with the new grant money will run from 2012 to 2015.

CUMBERLAND TIMES-NEWS

From Early Bird Bay cleanup could impact home prices CUMBERLAND — Allegany County has little land with development potential and county officials say regulations designed to save the Chesapeake Bay will make it more difficult and costly to build homes and businesses in the county. Commissioners heard the latest on the state’s proposed growth offset policy from Angie Patterson, county land use and planning engineer. Patterson gave commissioners a presentation at their work session last week. “This has nothing to do with the conditions of the bay ... this is growth control,” said County Administrator David Eberly. Only 2.4 percent of the county’s remaining open land is suitable for development, Patterson said. The state’s policy is designed to make sure progress in cleaning up the bay isn’t undone by future development, Patterson said. Simply put, the offsets are actions, like planting trees, which will be required to counter an increase in nitrogen and other nutrients flowing into the bay. Nutrients are, in this case, a bad thing — nitrogen, phosphorous and sediment hurt the water quality of the bay. And planting trees, of course, costs money. Under the current state proposal, a 15,000 square foot industrial building on two acres would require 3.5 acres of tree plantings, costing about \$7,000, to counterbalance increased storm water runoff from the developed land. The trigger for the offsets is disturbance of one acre or more of land. Another offset could be connecting septic to a sewer system, she said. Lots already approved but not developed, of which there are many in the county, would not trigger the offsets, Patterson said. To build a seven lot subdivision, 18 acres of trees would need to be planted, costing about \$36,000, Patterson said. Should water quality in the bay not be improved by the end of 2025, the offset requirements would be quadrupled. Patterson said the science behind the state’s offset policy was questionable and that the offset credit policy was inequitable. Among other things, it takes no account of the county’s distance from the bay, said Patterson.

ASSOCIATED PRESS (Md.)

Honeywell to pay most of Maryland port chromium plan BALTIMORE (AP) — The Maryland Port Administration says Honeywell International Inc. will pay for most of a \$27 million plan to keep chromium-tainted fill from polluting the harbor and nearby residential areas. Port and company officials plan to meet Tuesday with area residents to discuss the plan, which was approved recently by state environmental officials, ending years of negotiations. Honeywell has agreed to pay 77 percent of the costs of lining leaky storm drains at the Dundalk Marine Terminal and maintaining pavement over the contaminated soil. Port officials told The Baltimore Sun the state shares liability because it agreed to use soil from a former chromium processing plant in Baltimore’s Inner Harbor as fill at the terminal. Honeywell assumed liability for the contamination when it acquired the former Allied

Chemical plant site.

EDGEWATER-DAVIDSON PATCH

Homestead Gardens Strikes Deal to Reduce Runoff Pollution The river and its waterways are "dying a death of a thousand small cuts," according to one environmentalist.... The SRF received \$25,000 from the Chesapeake Bay Trust to help complete the necessary work. It was designed and built by the SRF along with Homestead Gardens, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Underwood & Associates, according to a release. Mantay said the partnering with local groups is the only way to truly address local environmental problems. By using stormwater wetlands and bioretention cells, Mantay hopes the project allows natural processes to solve many concerns surrounding the targeted site.

PENNENERGY

Sierra Club holds up LNG facility in Maryland The Dominion Cove Point facility in Calvert County, Maryland, has been in operation for more than 40 years, importing natural gas for steadily rising U.S. demand. With the rise of hydraulic fracturing in the country, however, the facility has seen less demand for imports and steadily dropping natural gas prices. In an effort to take advantage of higher prices abroad, the company wants to spend \$2 billion to add new facilities that would allow it to cool down and liquefy natural gas. Dominion estimates that the export facility would bring in around \$40 million in taxes for the county. However, the export facility operates under an agreement with the Sierra Club, which the group says it is unwilling to renegotiate to allow for exports. Despite positive reviews of Dominion's record, the group insists it will not approve of the facility because of the impact it could have on the use of fracking. The Philadelphia Inquirer reports that the natural gas industry pushed for expanded exports at the recent Shale Gas Insight conference. Assessments of the Marcellus shale are available at PennEnergy's Research area. Environmental group the Sierra Club has issued a legal challenge to plans by Dominion Resources Inc. to transform a liquid natural gas import facility into one that could ship the fuel abroad, according to The Baltimore Sun.

BMORE

Blue Water Baltimore Grants to Fund Water Conservation Projects

... Blue Water's grant is part of an overall \$9.2 million in grants the Chesapeake Bay Program and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation distributed last month. A total of 41 projects in six states and Washington, D.C., got awards for Chesapeake Bay environmental initiatives. The Baltimore metro area received nearly \$750,000. Besides Blue Water's grant, the Center for Urban Environmental Research and Education at the University of Maryland Baltimore County received \$324,000 to work with the Maryland Transit Administration and Highway Administration on adopting pervious concrete and subsoiling. The project includes a demonstration project to replace an existing parking lot at the Maryland Science Center with pervious concrete.

BAY NEWS

Plant Plans for Upgrade, Nabs Litterbugs Operations at the Chesapeake Beach Wastewater Treatment plant have been amazingly fluid since the municipality took over operations of the facility from Calvert County Government early last year. During the Sept. 20 meeting of the Chesapeake Beach Town Council, Jon Castro, the plant's superintendent, presented another favorable report to elected officials and residents. According to Castro, the town received the draft of the wastewater permit last month that allows the facility's continued operation from Nov. 1 to Oct. 31, 2017. Additionally, the plant's enhanced nutrient removal (ENR) upgrade project has made it through the permit process and design stage. The three-year project is expected to go out to bid next month. "Construction should begin in the beginning of 2013," Castro stated. The best news of all was an item that Castro has posted in all his reports since becoming a town employee—"the wastewater treatment plant had no spills or violations to report."

VIRGINIA

NORFOLK VIRGINIAN PILOT

From Early Bird Letter: Wastewater agencies making good progress The front-page news story, "Study targets James River algae that can be harmful" does a great job bringing attention to the state's important James River study in progress under the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's direction. Sound scientific research is essential for smart water policy, and the Virginia Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies (VAMWA), a network of 61 local wastewater treatment agencies across the Commonwealth of Virginia, commends the McDonnell administration and General Assembly for supporting this study. Wastewater treatment plant owners have recently completed multi-year construction projects to comply with nitrogen and phosphorus regulations approved by EPA in 2005. The results in the James River are remarkable. Over the past four years, wastewater plants have reduced nitrogen by 17 percent and phosphorus by 32 percent. Total wastewater discharges are down approximately one-half to two-thirds from 1985 levels.

FARMVILLE HERALD

From Early Bird Wilck raises state water issue (Sept. 20) FARMVILLE - Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors member Jim Wilck invited Town Council to the Board's October 23 Legislative lunch and offered food for thought that wasn't hard to swallow. "This might be a good time," Wilck told council members during their October monthly meeting last week, "to suggest to legislators that they make it a lot easier to get water (releases) approved." Particularly during times of drought. Town officials readily concurred and will pursue the issue with legislators. "I'm speaking of places like Mottley Lake, Wilck's Lake, places up the Buffalo and what-not," Wilck said of local impoundments and waterways. State law-which regards all such water as "waters of the state"-requires the Town of Farmville to obtain approval from Prince Edward County to release water from the Town-owned Mottley Lake as a necessary first step to then seek state permission to send that water on its way into the Appomattox River toward Farmville's water treatment plant. Towns and counties, Wilck said during the public comments portion of Town Council's meeting, should not be forced to "jump through quite as many hoops." Support for such an effort in the General Assembly, reasoned Wilck, should be widespread because "this is a problem all over the state." Among the legislators expected to attend are Delegate James Edmunds, who represents Prince Edward County and Farmville, and Virginia State Senator Tommy Garrett, who also has the town and county within his district. Congressman Robert Hurt has also been invited. Wilck told Town Council that he would like to see the state approve such applications for water withdrawal more quickly and "not be quite so onerous and perhaps approve it for a longer period of time." Farmville Town Manager Gerald Spates totally agrees.

CHARLOTTESVILLE DAILY PROGRESS

From Early Bird DEQ introduces area watershed improvement plan (Sunday) The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality introduced its Watershed Improvement Plan for four area watersheds during a panel discussion last week. Experts from the Rivanna River Basin Commission, the city of Charlottesville, Albemarle County, the Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District and the University of Virginia helped to introduce the plan. "We know we have a problem," said Tara Sieber, a regional coordinator with the DEQ. "We know that there is ... work that we can do ... so that the aquatic population is healthier and can support a better and more dynamic community. The goal is to bring back the healthy bugs." The Watershed Improvement Plan comes as a result of studies that found high sediment loads to be the major stressor for Lodge Creek, Meadow Creek, Moores Creek and Schenks Branch. High loads of sediment — dirt and mud in the water — negatively affect the aquatic community, which is one way scientists determine the overall health of streams. The DEQ's plan recommends reducing sediment by 13 percent to 19.3 percent in these streams. The plan recommends reducing sediment loads to area watersheds in four ways: limiting the amount of pavement and other impervious surfaces; encouraging

stormwater to infiltrate back into the ground; restoring stream banks and planting trees; and removing existing sediment from impervious surfaces, such as roadways. "When we're in a highly impervious environment, like an urbanized area ... the rain falls and it goes immediately into the creeks and rivers," Sieber said. This increases the amount of water a creek or stream can handle naturally, which leads to erosion, and then sedimentation problems. Additionally, Sieber suggested developers and property owners incorporate vegetated roofs, rain gardens and bio-retention filters into their properties, as well as harvest rainwater by using rain barrels or cisterns. Currently, local entities are employing stormwater management practices and conducting restoration projects that will ultimately help water quality. "We've been reducing stream bank and bed erosion that's the result of development for decades and decades before stormwater management was something a lot of people thought about," said Dan Frisbee, the city's stormwater program coordinator. "This project aims to address some of those issues by grading back ... steep, vertical stream banks into gentle, gradual banks that are then protected with rock ... creating areas where the water can actually get up and safely access its floodplain," Frisbee added. "Since 2003, we've had a number of different projects to try to educate ... certain sectors like the automobile maintenance and repair industry," said Martin Johnson, the soil and water district's urban conservationist. "One of our education incentives was to get posters out to them and to make site visits and to talk to them about the types of practices they could be doing to prevent water pollution."

NORTHERN VIRGINIA DAILY

From Early Bird State: George's discharge polluted creek George's Chicken plant in Edinburg polluted a nearby creek for days in early August in violation of its permit, a state agency official said Friday. The Department of Environmental Quality on Thursday sent a letter to George's notifying the company of the violation at its wastewater treatment facility at 117 Screech Owl Lane, Edinburg, according to Gary Flory, agricultural and water compliance manager for the valley regional office. The "unauthorized discharge" into Stoney Creek began Aug. 1 and lasted approximately a week, Flory said Friday. The facility serves the George's plant on 19998 Senedo Road. "Based upon information we have seen, it does appear the plant is treating and is discharging within the authorized levels, so the situation has been resolved," Flory said. DEQ found that George's released ammonia in excess of the amount allowed by its permit along with "total suspended solids" into the creek, according to Flory. "So basically, what that means is you could physically see solids in the discharge," Flory said. "So this was something that was visible from within the creek, not only to parameters that are tested for, like ammonia, but you could actually see the solids within the creek itself." George's performs daily monitoring of the wastewater released from the plant, according to Bob Kenney, vice president for operations in Virginia. "We identified the problem and we called DEQ to immediately notify them of the problem," Kenney said Friday. "I'd say right then we brought in some outside experts to help us. ... We had some ideas on how to get it back in compliance, so we brought in some outside experts to help us address that issue and give us ideas on how to get it back in compliance the fastest way possible." Asked whether the releases in violation of the permit posed any harm to the public, Kenney said they didn't. "If there was I'm sure we'd have to stop immediately," Kenney said. "The natural system itself somehow got out of balance."

From Early Bird George's plant responded to earlier wastewater release incident (Sept. 21) George's Chicken experienced problems with wastewater release from its Edinburg plant weeks before the facility violated its state permit, according to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. Email correspondence between a DEQ inspector and a George's Chicken representative provided to the Daily, show the Edinburg plant released solids and a "white milky discharge and foam" from the treatment facility into Stoney Creek on July 13.

ASSOCIATED PRESS (Va.)

From Early Bird Hampton Roads panel backs uranium mining ban CHESAPEAKE -- The Hampton Roads Planning District Commission has taken a stand against ending a 30-year ban on uranium mining in Virginia. The resolution was approved by all but one voting member of the 16 cities and counties represented by the commission. The nonbinding resolution was passed last week. The commission adopted a resolution that cites the threat to Lake Gaston, which provides one-third of the water to the cities of Virginia Beach, Norfolk and Chesapeake. While the

resolution states that the threat is "small," the consequences would be "enormous and unacceptable" for the region. Virginia Uranium Inc. has proposed mining a 119-million-pound deposit of the radioactive ore in Pittsylvania County. It says the mining can be conducted safely and it has said it will store radioactive waste in below-ground containment cells.

MISCELLANEOUS

BNA DAILY ENVIRONMENT REPORT

From Early Bird Former New Mexico Official Named EPA Region 6 Administrator The selection of Ron Curry to lead EPA's Region 6 office brings praise from the Sierra Club and an announcement from Sen. Inhofe that "various public comments attributed to [Curry] raise concerns." Curry, who takes the position once held by Al Armendariz, ran the New Mexico Environment Department from January 2003 through December 2010 under the administration of former Gov. Bill Richardson (D). Inhofe says Curry has shown pride in shutting down coal-fired power plants.

From Early Bird Judges Say Congress Was Clear in Requiring Air Quality Monitoring Federal appeals court judges say Congress was clear when it decided industrial plants and other air pollution sources must monitor air quality before applying for a Clean Air Act prevention of significant deterioration permit, as they question EPA's decision to create an exemption to the requirement. In oral arguments in a case challenging the exemption, Judge Harry Edwards of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit says the monitoring requirement was "a legislative call," and EPA made a decision contrary to Congress's direction

From Early Bird Advocacy Groups Sue EPA for Failure to Act on State Lead Plans The Center for Biological Diversity and the Center for Environmental Health sue EPA for not keeping to a regulatory schedule addressing lead pollution. EPA was required to make findings by May 12 that 12 states have not submitted state implementation plans for the 2008 national ambient air quality standard for lead, according to a complaint filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California. In addition, the plaintiffs say, EPA did not take action by April 19, 2011, to approve or disapprove a plan submitted by Tennessee.

BLOOMBERG NEWS

From Early Bird NY judge throws out state fracking lawsuit New York state can't pursue a lawsuit seeking a full environmental review of hydraulic fracturing, a federal judge ruled Monday in a case that might have held up natural gas development in the Delaware River Basin. U.S. District Judge Nicholas G. Garaufis granted a request by the Environmental Protection Agency and other federal agencies to throw out the case, finding that the development plans are in the early stages and the threat of harm is speculative. "The court has no way of judging reliably how probable it is that the regulation will be enacted and thus no way of judging whether risk that natural gas development may create are more than conjecture," Garaufis said in his ruling, issued in Brooklyn, N.Y. The lawsuit, brought by New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, pitted arguments for environmental conservation against those for a domestic energy source and new jobs. New York City Council and environmental groups have sided with the state, warning of breathing problems for city residents and risks to fish in Chesapeake Bay. Organizations representing energy companies sided with the federal government, arguing that the lawsuit is based on "speculative fears." Schneiderman sued the Delaware River Basin Commission, the EPA and other federal agencies in May 2011 to force a fuller assessment of the environmental impact that gas development could have on the state's water supply. The river commission, created in 1961, is a compact among New York, Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and the federal government. It is responsible for water quality in the Delaware River Basin, which supplies drinking water to the four states. "Everyone in this room drinks New York City water," Garaufis

said during a July 24 hearing. "I'm dealing with a real serious issue that may occur here with regards to the drinking water of 15 million people." Schneiderman has said the commission's proposed regulations would allow the natural gas extraction process known as fracking at 15,000 to 18,000 gas wells without a full environmental review. If the regulations are issued, a moratorium on fracking in New York, already in effect for more than 18 months, will be lifted.

NC fracking panel nominee dismisses concerns The only candidate to chair North Carolina's new fracking oversight panel is dismissing concerns about dangers to the environment. The panel that is supposed to decide whether and how to allow fracking in the state meets Friday to elect a chairman. The fracking process injects a drilled well with chemicals, water and sand at high pressure to crack shale rock and release natural gas. Lee County Commissioner Jim Womack says he's uniquely qualified to run the panel. Womack told WRAL-TV he thinks North Carolina should allow fracking to proceed. He downplayed concerns from environmentalists who want the state to move slowly because of dangers to contaminating the state's aquifers.

ENVIRONMENTAL LEADER

Times Blasts Data Center Energy Waste; Industry Calls Story Unfair ... The newspaper's investigation also uncovered environmental violations such as those incurred by Amazon's data centers in Manassas, Va. The Times reports the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality inspected Amazon's Manassas data center beginning in 2010 and fined the company \$554,476 for running diesel generators without the required environmental permits. The agency eventually reduce Amazon's fee to \$261,638. In 2009, it says, Amazon paid \$3,496 for similar permit violations. Additionally, Virginia officials have cited data centers run by Qwest, Savvis, VeriSign and NTT America, and in the Chicago area, Savvis and Equinix have received violation notices.

POLITICALNEWS.ME (Press Release)

House Passes Anti-Environmental Package before Recess Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senators Mike Crapo (R-ID) and Kay Hagan (D-NC) introduced legislation that would eliminate a costly and redundant EPA regulation on pesticides. A bipartisan group of senators co-sponsored the Restoring Effective Environmental Protection (REEP) Act, including: Senators Inhofe (R-OK), McCaskill (D-MO), Barrasso (R-WY), Carper (D-DE), Coons (D-DE), Risch (R-ID), Landrieu (D-LA), Vitter (R-LA), Pryor (D-AR), and Conrad (D-ND). "The EPA's own cost analysis has estimated the new permitting requirements will cost more than \$50 million a year, as well as at least one million hours to process," Crapo said. "This cost on rural America is unprecedented, as virtually every stream and creek near pesticide applications will be subject to regulation. Our rural communities are under a substantial amount of financial and regulatory pressure and are looking to Congress for much-needed relief." "This issue is not about whether pesticides should be regulated," said Hagan. "The REEP Act is about eliminating a redundant regulation that provides little or no environmental or public health benefits.

CLIMATE CENTRAL

As the US Warms, Power Plants Face New Water Limits The power sector is responsible for a large share — about 40 percent — of greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S., particularly thermoelectric-generating stations, such as coal-fired power plants. And so it is not without a hint of irony that a recent study concluded that the effects of global warming, particularly drought and heat waves, will increasingly limit the generating capacity of these power plants — thereby making them both contributors to and victims of global warming.

HUFFINGTON POST

Wastewater Injection Wells: The Trillion-Gallon Loophole On a cold, overcast afternoon in January 2003, two tanker trucks backed up to an injection well site in a pasture outside Rosharon, Texas. There, under a steel shed, they began to unload thousands of gallons of wastewater for burial deep beneath the earth. The waste – the byproduct of oil and gas drilling – was described in regulatory documents as a benign mixture of salt and water. But as the liquid rushed from the trucks, it released a billowing vapor of far more volatile materials, including benzene and other flammable hydrocarbons. The truck engines, left to idle by their drivers, sucked the fumes from the air,

revving into a high-pitched whine. Before anyone could react, one of the trucks backfired, releasing a spark that ignited the invisible cloud. Fifteen-foot-high flames enveloped the steel shed and tankers. Two workers died, and four were rushed to the hospital with burns over much of their bodies. A third worker died six weeks later. What happened that day at Rosharon was the result of a significant breakdown in the nation's efforts to regulate the handling of toxic waste, a ProPublica investigation shows.

EPA PRESS RELEASE

Property Owner in Allegheny Co. to Clean up Asbestos

PHILADELPHIA (September 25, 2012) – In a settlement reached with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Legacy Landings, LLC, owner of a property in Gibsonia, Allegheny County, Pa., will take steps to protect the nearby public from asbestos hazards at the site. Legacy Landings has agreed to properly clean up and dispose of asbestos-containing material released from abandoned greenhouses and other buildings on property formerly occupied by the Pittsburgh Cut Flower Company.